THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. EAM had reviewed global menace of terrorism with his Italian counterpart Mr. Dini on 12th January, 2000 in Rome.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Afghanistan situation was also discussed and identified as a factor strengthening international terrorism. In view of the common concerns of both countries it was agreed that both India and Italy would cooperate bilaterally and in multilateral fora, to combat the menace of international terrorism.

Indo-Bangladesh Talks

2963. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the officials of India and Bangladesh did discuss in Dhaka to simplify the visa issuing mechanism and to find a solution to the border disputes between the two countries ;

(b) whether it was to be followed at a national level talk ; and

(c) if so, what has been the out come of talks held, so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (c) During the 6th meeting of the India-Bangladesh Joint Working Group held in Dhaka in January 2000, discussions were held, *inter-alia,* on review of the existing visa regime and issues related to border management and completion of boundary demarcation. Government of India proposes to discuss these matters at appropriate levels with Bangladesh including, *inter- alia,* during the forthcoming Home Secretary and Foreign Secretary level talks, with the objective of putting in place mutually satisfactory arrangements.

Declaring Pakistan as Terrorist State

2964.. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have urged the United State Administration to declare Pakistan as a terrorist State; and

(b) if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) Government have

appropriately and effectively brought to the notice of the international community, including the United States Administration, Pakistan's state sponsorship of terrorism in the State of Jammu & Kashmir and elsewhere in India. The facts regarding Pakistan's sponsorship of terriorism have also been raised at high-level bilateral discussions with senior leaders.

There is a much greater appreciation of Pakistan's sponsorship of terriorism in Jammu & Kashmir and elsewhere in India, and the impact this has on the security of our country and the region. US Government's spokesmen have also said that in general there is support and ties between agencies of the Government of Pakistan and terrorist groups operating in Kashmir. India and the United States have also set up a Joint Working Group to intensify their Cooperation in combating all forms of terrorism.

Detention of Indian National by Russian Forces

2965. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH'SURYA' : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether an Indian national has been detained by Russian forces suspected of having fought against them in Chechenya;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware of his whereabouts;

(c) whether any steps have been taken to ensure his safe release/return to India; and

(d) if not, what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b). The Government have seen press reports that during their operations against rebels in the Republic of Chechenya of the Russian Federation, the Russian Authorities have captured an Indian national. According to these reports, the Indian national has been detained for interrogation in Makhachkala, capital of the Republic of Dagestan of the Russian Federation, by the Russian security agencies.

(c) and (d) The Government have sought full details relaing to this case from the Government of the Russian Federation.